

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 004053
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARP:FHGERLACH:LB

APPROVED BY: NEA:EGABINGTON, JR.

S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH

DOD/ISA:RZWART

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

S E C R E T STATE 004053

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEATED TO YOU FYI ONLY

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION STATE INFO MUSCAT FROM LONDON
DEC 3, 1976:

QUOTE S E C R E T LONDON 19542

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF, HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MU, UK, US

SUBJECT: MASIRAH: BRITISH WITHDRAWAL PLANS

1. DURING CONSULTATION AT FCO DECEMBER 3, KEALY IN
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MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT INFORMED EMBOFF AND VISITING
NEA/ARP OFFICER GERLACH OF LATEST RAF PLANS FOR STAGED
WITHDRAWAL FROM MASIRAH, AS FOLLOWS: RAF WILL HAVE
ONLY 291 MEN LEFT ON MASIRAH BY JANUARY 1, 1977. BY
FEBRUARY 1 THIS NUMBER WILL BE FURTHER REDUCED TO 191,
AND BY MARCH 1 TO 180. A MAJOR REDUCTION IN AIR TRAFFIC
BEING HANDLED BY THE RAF WILL COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 1, AT

WHICH POINT THE OMANI AIR FORCE WILL TAKE OVER ALL NON-RAF AIR TRAFFIC. THE OMANIS STILL HAVE NOT REQUESTED ANY MORE BRITISH SECONDED TECHNICAL PERSONNEL TO HELP THE OMANI AIR FORCE RUN THE AIRPORT IN ADDITION TO THE SIX ALREADY REQUESTED.

2. THE DESALINATION PLANT ON MASIRAH IS ALREADY FUNCTIONING. THE RAF WILL CLOSE OUT ITS MEDICAL SERVICES ON MASIRAH ON FEBRUARY 1, AND THE OMANI MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES THERE WILL NOT START FUNCTIONING UNTIL MARCH 1; HOWEVER, THE OMANI CIVILIAN HOSPITAL IS TO START FUNCTIONING BY JANUARY 1. THE OMANI GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT KEEPING THE GOOD WILL OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION ON THE ISLAND, AND ACCORDINGLY WILL ASSIGN A CIVIL AFFAIRS LIAISON OFFICER EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE UNDERSTAND DEPARTMENT HAS SENT TO EMBASSY MUSCAT AN INFO TELEGRAM ON MILITARY ASPECTS OF US-OMANI RELATIONSHIP FOR THE FUTURE. REQUEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT THIS TELEGRAM TO LONDON PROMPTLY AND SPECIFY WHICH PARTS OF IT WE MAY CONVEY TO FCO. ARMSTRONG UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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